DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 14 MAY 1982
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☒
CONTINUE DENIAL ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

CONFIDENTIAL

December 22, 1961

RM/R

FILE

REPORT ON CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR RUSSELL ON VOLTA

The Acting Secretary, following his conversation with Bermuda, asked George Springsteen to call Ambassador Russell in Accra immediately and indicate to him that the proposed Nkrumah speech was very adversely received by the White House and that if delivered in the form in which we had seen it, it could lead to re-opening the whole question of Volta financing.

At approximately 12:10 pm, after an hour of trying, connection was finally made with Ambassador Russell in Accra. William Brubeck also participated in the conversation on the Washington end.

Mr. Springsteen indicated that we had received a very severe reaction from high quarters to the proposed speech and if delivered in the form in which we had seen it, it could jeopardize the entire affair.

Ambassador Russell said that pursuant to the Department's instructions of the previous evening, he had just seen Nkrumah and further revisions had been made in the speech. These included taking out the Soviet Bloc emphasis at the beginning of the speech and moving it to the end; a much warmer statement of appreciation to President Kennedy and the American people on the decision to proceed with Volta financing; a statement that this decision is only the most recent evidence of policy trends which the United States and Ghana are both pursuing in common, mentioning Angola and Katanga; and the elimination of earlier statements critical of the British and the way they had handled Ghanian funds in pre-independence days.

Ambassador Russell said there had been no change in the text on civil liberties and freedom for newsmen.

Ambassador Russell was asked if in his view the speech, as revised, now met our expectations. He said it did not measure up to what we wanted.

In light of the foregoing, Ambassador Russell was requested to go back to Nkrumah once more and indicate that he had just received a call from Washington transmitting more high level reactions to the speech

Microfilmed by RM/R

CONFIDENTIAL DECLASSIFIED

U:GS Springsteen

speech as originally transmitted to us. Although we could not assess what might be reactions here to the changes he was now reporting, reaction to the original text was very adverse, and he should stress our view that its delivery without substantial changes could result in the whole question being re-opened and generally endangering the whole Volta project.

Ambassador Russell said that the speech was probably already out to the press since it was due for delivery in the next hour. It was stressed to Ambassador Russell that regardless of the status of the speech, it was essential that our record be made clear and that Nkrumah receive personally this information on the highest level reaction to his proposed statement.

Ambassador Russell said that he would immediately get in touch with Nkrumah and transmit to him this latest point of view.

cc: U - Mr. Ball
AF - Governor Williams
White House - Mr. Dungan
AmEmbassy Accra - Ambassador Russell

U:GSSpringsteen:lr

DECLASSIFIED